

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 18

GUARDIAN (US)
1 July 1981

Film

Grenada: U.S. target

"GRENADA: NOBODY'S BACKYARD"

Directed by Ellen Ray
Produced by CovertAction Information Bulletin

By JONATHAN BENNETT

Will a U.S.-backed destabilization campaign succeed in ousting Grenada's 2-year-old Popular Revolutionary Government? Or will the 120,000 citizens of the tiny Eastern Caribbean island turn back the imperialist assault?

The makers of "Grenada: Nobody's Backyard" have no crystal ball, so the question is not answered. But the issue is clearly drawn. The film's producer—the Washington-based CovertAction Information Bulletin—has been watching the CIA in action for a long time, and the documentary leaves no doubt that Grenada is the latest victim of Washington-based destabilization.

The camera records the destabilization tactics in action in Grenada. The viewer actually witnesses the work of the assassination squads, the smears of the reactionary media, the denial of trade in medical supplies and the subversive strikes of some essential workers.

While Washington's agents do not identify themselves as such, their handiwork is easily observed. Footage from past CIA-destabilization efforts in other countries, such as Guyana in 1964 and Jamaica in 1980 make clear the origins of the reactionary violence, the strikes and the media campaigns.

Director Ellen Ray hews close to the objective documentary style, but there is no mistaking the message of "Grenada: Nobody's Backyard." As ex-CIA agent Philip Agee reminds the viewers: "The CIA is not all powerful or all knowing—it has had many failures and few successes—but it can do a lot of damage and cause a lot of human suffering."

It is easy to see why Grenada is one of the latest targets in Washington's sights. Grenadians are interviewed on the job and in the street, and they tell of the "Green Beasts," the old regime's brutal and arbitrary police, and of the new birth of freedom since the revolution. A trade union leader explains his rejection of the "training" efforts of the CIA-front American Institute for Free Labor Development. A soldier tells the interviewer, "The revolution is the best thing

that could ever happen to Grenada."

Those interviewed are anxious to tell North Americans about their struggle, about what Prime Minister Maurice Bishop calls "building the continuous participation of the people in the affairs of the country." They speak proudly of what they have accomplished and of the fraternal internationalist ties they are building with Cuba, Nicaragua and the revolutionary forces in El Salvador.

"Grenada: Nobody's Backyard" lays it on the line: the U.S. government is trying to destroy a revolution, and it is counting on keeping most Americans indifferent to the fate of a tiny, out-of-the-way island, so the destabilization program can succeed. This film is a small but significant step to prevent the U.S. from doing so.

"Grenada: Nobody's Backyard" will be shown at the Brecht Auditorium in New York City June 26 and 27 at 8 pm. For more information call: 212-989-6820. To arrange for rental or purchase of the film, contact: Caribbean Film Project, 1426 Florida Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009; tel: 202-296-6766.